

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01468 270927Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EB-08 ISO-00 /019 W
-----085258 270930Z /10
P 270546Z AUG 77
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4916
USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1468

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, IZ
SUBJECT: MIDEAST MARKETS ARTICLE ON IRAQI "ANTI-ANTIBOYCOTT MOVE"

REF: (A) BAGHDAD 1392 (B) BAGHDAD 1106
(C) BAGHDAD 455 (D) BAGHDAD 489

1. USINT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BACKGROUND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT AND USDOC CAN PROVIDE ABOUT ARTICLE ENTITLED "IRAQ-ANTI-ANTIBOYCOTT MOVE" IN AUGUST 15, 1977 ISSUE OF MIDEAST MARKETS. ARTICLE CITES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SOURCE AS CONFIRMING "THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT HAS SUGGESTED TO ITS STATE-RUN PURCHASING AGENCIES -- WHICH CONTROL ALL IMPORTS INTO THE COUNTRY -- THAT THEY REFRAIN FROM BUYING US GOODS WHENEVER POSSIBLE." SOURCE IS QUOTED AS SAYING "WE KNOW THAT THE DIRECTIVE HAS BEEN PUT OUT" EVEN THOUGH NO OFFICIAL IRAQI ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE POLICY HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE.

2. USINT HAS NO, RPT NO, CONFIRMATION OF SUBSTANCE OF THIS REPORT OR SIMILAR ONES THAT HAVE APPEARED IN MEED AND THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. PREVIOUSLY, AS REPORTED IN REF B, DIRECTOR OF BOYCOTT OFFICE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CLAIMED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO GOI POLICY AGAINST DEALING WITH AMERICAN FIRMS IN REACTION TO NEW US ANTI-BOYCOTT
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LEGISLATION; HE DID, HOWEVER, ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SOME GOI AGENCIES MAY CHOOSE NON-AMERICAN GOODS IN ORDER TO AVOID BOYCOTT PROBLEMS. HE MADE SIMILAR COMMENTS IN ANOTHER INTERVIEW LAST MARCH (SEE REF C) AS WELL. ONLY DIRECTIVE FOR WHICH WE HAVE PRODUCED ANY CORROBORATING EVIDENCE (SEE REF D) IS ONE SAYING IRAQI BOYCOTT PROVISIONS MUST BE ENFORCED IN ALL DEALINGS

WITH US COMPANIES.

3. GOI OFFICIALS ARE LIKELY TO BE SENSITIVE ABOUT
AND SUSPICIOUS OF MIDEAST MARKETS ARTICLE'S
PARTICULAR ATTRIBUTION TO A DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
SOURCE. IF DIRECTIVE DOES EXIST, IT IS A SECRET.
IF IT DOESN'T EXIST, GOI OFFICIAL MAY SUSPECT USDOC
OF PLANTING REPORT TO FORCE GOI DENIAL. IF
DIRECTIVE EXISTS, CHANCES FOR ITS DISCREET WITHDRAWAL
ARE BEST IF IT REMAINS SECRET AND GOI IS NOT FORCED
BY PUBLICITY TO ACKNOWLEDGE DIRECTIVE. COMBINATION
OF ECONOMIC SELF-INTEREST AND SERIOUS US-IRAQI
DISCUSSION OF BOYCOTT ISSUES CAN BEST WORK WITHOUT
COMPLICATIONS OF MEDIA ATTENTION TO IRAQI BOYCOTT
POLICY.

4. AS COMMATT HAS REQUEST PENDING FOR AN APPOINTMENT
WITH MINISTRY OF TRADE BOYCOTT OFFICIALS, USINT
WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY BY IMMEDIATE
TELEGRAM.
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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